

New Grants.gov System with Adobe PDF and Reader

**Same Grant Process,
New and Improved System**

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NEW GRANTS.GOV SYSTEM

The Grants.gov System featuring Adobe PDF and Reader

In order to enhance the overall user experience, Grants.gov has introduced a new and improved grants processing system. The new fill-able Adobe PDF-based application forms allow federal grant-making agencies to post grant application packages for funding opportunities that can be easily completed and submitted by applicants.

The new fillable PDF applications, while maintaining the familiar look and feel of the previous application forms, will further support the Grants.gov initiative of improving government services to the public by extending access to all. Regardless of the type of operating system you have, the new Grants.gov system is able to accommodate you by allowing the use of most common computer hardware, operating systems, and internet browsers.

Hardware Platforms:	Mac, PC
Operating Systems:	Tiger, Leopard, WINXP, Vista, Unix
Internet Browsers:	Internet Explorer, Netscape, Firefox, Safari

With such broad compatibility, the new system eliminates the need for extra software or virtual workspaces (Citrix Server connection) which has been used as a workaround for previously incompatible systems. All the software and tools an applicant needs to complete a Grants.gov application package are offered free of charge on the [download software page](#) of the website.

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System Features

The new Grants.gov system maintains the present high-quality features of the older system and adds new enhanced features to optimize the user experience. It was designed to minimize the impact on current applicants, who have grown accustomed to the older system, while simplifying and improving the system for new applicants by increasing access across multiple platforms and ensuring applications are based on PDF, an open standard.

Familiar Features Maintained

With the new system and Adobe PDF-based application forms, the familiar user interface of the previous application forms are maintained. The new system's application forms still allow you to click a button ("Check Package for Errors") to see a list of all the fields that need to be completed and where revision is needed within your application package. The new application forms also maintain the save feature, which allows you to save your information directly to the application forms. You will also be able to use your existing login information to submit an application package.

Increased Service Access

The new Adobe PDF based application forms deliver true platform independence, which means no matter which operating system (Windows, MAC, Linux and Unix) or internet browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, Firefox, Safari) you use, you will be able to easily and securely access the website and benefit from the new system. Because of this, these PDF forms eliminates the need for virtual workspaces such as a Citrix Server Connection, which was used by applicants with systems incompatible with Grants.gov's previous system. The new application forms also enable you to work offline and attach supporting documents in many formats including Microsoft Office 2007 documents, creating a self-contained application package.

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Standard-based PDF Application Packages

The new Grants.gov forms are based on PDF, an open standard known as ISO 32000. Maintained by the International Organization for Standardization, ISO 32000 will continue to be developed with the objective of protecting the integrity and longevity of PDF. The new forms enable both applicants and grantors to save their form applications in PDF. For grantors, there is also the additional benefit in the new system of receiving responses not only as separate static PDFs, but also as a single PDF package for better management and archive of grant applications submitted.

Adobe Reader Software

The new Grants.gov system uses Adobe Reader to access the application forms. In order to use the system and take advantage of all the benefits the new system has to offer, you must download and install the current compatible version of Adobe Reader on your computer. The current compatible version of Adobe Reader is version 8.1.2. Adobe is preparing a future release (8.1.3) which will also be compatible for use with Grants.gov. The compatible version of Adobe Reader is the only software you will need to use Grants.gov, and is available free of charge on the [download software](#) page of the website. The new system also allows you to use Adobe Acrobat Professional software you may have already installed on your computer. See the [Adobe Reader section](#) of Applicant FAQs for more information.

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Use and Benefit from the New Grants.gov System

Due to the intuitive function and design of the new system and Adobe PDF based application forms, you will be able to quickly and easily learn how to use them. There is a helpful user guide, Adobe Reader FAQs and animated tutorial which walk you step-by-step through using Grants.gov. Visit the Applicant Resource section of the website to access all Grants.gov reference resources.

For additional help please contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at: 1-800-518-4726 or via email: support@grants.gov.